

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 10, 11 and 13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, and 5 are amended. Claims 2, 6, 8, 12 and 14 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action, at page 7, indicates that claims 2 and 5 contain allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 2 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1, and claims 2, 6, 8, 12 and 14 are canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections over the applied references are moot, and allowance of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 4, 5, 7, 10, 11 and 13 are respectfully requested.

II. Objections To The Claims

The Office Action objects to claim 5 due to informalities. Claim 5 is amended, as shown above, to obviate the objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Sherif, Chittofrati And Sato

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 6, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,023,071 to Sherif ("Sherif") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,670,088 to Chittofrati et al. ("Chittofrati") and U.S. Patent No. 4,987,012 to Sato et al. ("Sato"). Claims

6 and 14 are canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot as to those claims. As to the remaining claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 4 and 13 are respectfully requested.

B. Sherif, Chittofrati, Sato And Uenishi

The Office Action rejects claims 7, 8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sherif in view of Chittofrati, Sato and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0061816 to Uenishi et al. ("Uenishi"). Claims 8 and 12 are canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot as to these claims. As to the remaining claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 7, 10 and 11 are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, since the application has been amended in light of the indication of allowability recited in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 3, 2010

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